

19 AUG 1958

STANDISH-WITH-LANGTREE
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL
REPORT
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
together with the
Report of the
Public Health Inspector
FOR THE YEAR
1957

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STANDISH-WITH-LANGTREE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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The Health, Sanitation and Housing Committee, consisting of all the Members of the Council, is the Committee having charge of matters of public health within the Urban District.

CHAIRMAN OF THE HEALTH, SANITATION AND HOUSING COMMITTEE :

Councillor E. GARNER

*VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE
HEALTH, SANITATION AND HOUSING COMMITTEE :*

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CLERK OF THE COUNCIL :

D. CHISHOLM, Esq.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :

G. H. POTTER, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR and CLEANSING SUPERINTENDENT
B. L. PARKER, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., M.R.I.P.H.H.

Standish-with-Langtree Urban District Council

Public Health Department,
Ashfield House,
Standish.

July, 1958

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Standish-with-Langtree Urban District Council*

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting to you the Annual Report upon the health of Standish for the year 1957.

As in previous years it has been compiled in the manner indicated by the Ministry of Health Circular.

I wish to thank you for the very kind interest taken in the matters affecting the health and sanitation of the Urban District. I would also like to extend my thanks to Mr. B. L. Parker and other members of the staff for their valuable assistance during the year.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

G. H. POTTER,

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Population (Preliminary Census, 1951)	8,991
Registrar-General's estimated mid-year (1957) home population	8,910
Acreage of District	3,266
Number of inhabited houses at end of 1957 according to rate book	2,956
Rateable Value (1/4/1957)	£79,160
Product of Penny Rate (Actual 31/3/1957)	£321/14/8

PHYSICAL FEATURES AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Standish-with-Langtree Urban District is pleasantly situated North of the County Borough of Wigan and adjoining it.

The Rural District of Wigan lies to the East and West and the Rural District of Chorley to the North.

The maximum distance between the boundaries is about 5 miles and the height of the district above sea level varies from 88-375 feet.

The geological formation is of black loamy soil having generally a sandy sub-soil and in the Eastern parts there are considerable strata of hard rock. The district is rich in coal seams at varying depths.

The district is typically urban in character and its chief industries are Coal Mining, Agriculture, Food Canning and Bottling, Brewing Beer and the Manufacture of Textiles.

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS.

	Live Births—number registered		
	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	65	... 66	... 131
Illegitimate	1	... 1	... 2

The live birth-rates per 1,000 of estimated home population are :—

Crude Rate	14.9
Adjusted Rate	15.8 (16.1)
Comparability factor	1.06

	Stillbirths—number registered		
	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	Nil	... 1	... 1
Illegitimate	Nil	... Nil	... Nil

The stillbirth rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births is 7 (22.4)

DEATHS.

Deaths (all causes)—number registered		
Male	Female	Total
62	36	98

The mortality rates per 1,000 of estimated home population are :—

Total (all causes): Crude Rate	11.0
Adjusted Rate	12.4 (11.5)
Comparability factor	1.13
Respiratory Tuberculosis	0.11 (0.09)
Malignant Neoplasms (cancer)	2.02 (2.09)

Maternal Mortality.

There were no deaths from puerperal causes during the year. The maternal mortality rate per 1,000 total births is nil.

Infant Mortality (deaths of infants under 1 year of age).

	Number registered		
	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	1	2	3
Illegitimate	Nil	Nil	Nil

The infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births is 23 (23.0)

Neo-Natal Mortality (deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age).

	Number registered		
	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	1	2	3
Illegitimate	Nil	Nil	Nil

The neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births is 23 (16.5)

CANCER : Eighteen deaths occurred in 1957 — 12 males and 6 females compared with 14 deaths — 7 males and 7 females in 1956.

Facilities for Radium treatment for Standish residents are available at the Manchester Radium Institute and at the Wigan Infirmary Clinic.

Figures in parenthesis are corresponding figures for England and Wales

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES:—	M.	F.
Tuberculosis—respiratory	I	...
Malignant neoplasm (stomach)	I	...
Malignant neoplasm (lung-bronchus)	2	...
Malignant neoplasm (breast)	—	...
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms...	9	...
Vascular lesions of nervous system	8	...
Coronary disease—angina	10	...
Hypertension with heart disease	2	...
Other heart disease	II	...
Other circulatory disease	—	...
Influenza	I	...
Pneumonia	—	...
Bronchitis	3	...
Other diseases of respiratory system	3	...
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	I	...
Nephritis and nephrosis	I	...
Hyperplasia of prostate	I	...
Congenital malformations	—	...
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	6	...
Motor vehicle accidents	I	...
All other accidents	I	...
Suicide	—	...
TOTAL (all causes)	62	36

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

LABORATORY FACILITIES

Specimens are sent to the Group Laboratory of the Wigan and Leigh Hospital Management Committee at the Wigan Royal Infirmary for examination. Use is also made of the facilities of the Public Health Laboratory Service at Manchester and Liverpool.

These arrangements have proved quite satisfactory.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

The duty of providing an Ambulance Service devolves upon the Lancashire County Council as the Local Authority under the National Health Service Act. An Ambulance Station to cover the needs of Standish is established at Ashfield House. The service is quite satisfactory.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Seventy-seven cases of Infectious Diseases were notified to the Department during the year compared with 23 cases during 1956.

Perusal of the accompanying table will show the incidence of the various diseases and the age groups affected.

There was an epidemic of 64 cases of Measles during the first quarter of the year occurring in children of 5 years and under. There were few cases of other diseases.

Food Poisoning.—There were no cases of Food Poisoning notified during the year.

General.—In accordance with the provisions of the National Health Service Acts, a copy of each notification of an infectious disease, including food poisoning, has to be sent by the Department to the Local Health Authority within 12 hours, if possible, and in any case within 48 hours after its receipt.

Other Returns relating to the prevalence of and deaths from Notifiable Infectious Diseases have to be sent to the Registrar-General and the County Medical Officer of Health at weekly and quarterly intervals.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA, WHOOPING COUGH and POLIOMYELITIS

Particulars of the numbers of pre-school and school-children who completed a full course of primary immunisation against Diphtheria during the year are :—

Pre-school children : 91. School children : 3

In addition one chld was given a secondary or reinforcing injection against Diphtheria.

Also 92 pre-school children and 3 school children were immunised against Whooping Cough with Whooping Cough Vaccine only or a combined (Diphtheria-Pertussis or Diphtheria—Tetanus-Pertussis) type of prophylactic.

Also 90 pre-school children and 175 school children were immunised against poliomyelitis.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1957

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES	Total Cases at all ages	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED AGE PERIODS - YEARS						65 and over			age un- known			Total Deaths
		0	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	25	45			
Scarlet fever	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles (excl. rubella)	64	1	3	4	8	10	38	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Tuberculosis (Resp.)	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	2	—	—
Tuberculosis (Other)	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
TOTALS	77	1	3	4	8	10	44	—	2	—	3	2	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS

This service is under the control of the Manchester Regional Hospital Board which provides facilities for the treatment of cases of Tuberculosis. Standish cases attend the Chest Clinic, Millgate, Wigan.

Six new cases of Tuberculosis were notified during the year compared with seven cases last year.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 and 1951

No action was taken under these Acts in respect of the Removal of Persons in need of Care and Attention.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY

The Council have their own plant (Bell's Mechanical Filters) situated at Green Lane for filtering the water supply.

The water for domestic and trade purposes comes from the reservoir at Anglezarke and is purchased from Liverpool Corporation. A special industrial supply comes from Thirlmere and is purchased from Manchester Corporation.

Before distribution in the district the domestic water supply receives the following treatment:—

Addition of chemicals: Alumina—1 gr. per gallon.
Soda Ash—1 gr. per gallon.

Filtration and chlorination.

The special industrial supply is distributed without treatment. Both domestic and industrial supplies are constant.

The water is of good soft Upland Surface Water in every way well suited for drinking and all domestic purposes.

All houses in the district are supplied from public water mains direct to houses.

Water Sampling : The following samples were taken during the year and reports thereon are tabulated opposite :—

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS :—

	UNTREATED WATER				FULLY TREATED WATER			
	Jan.	Apl.	July	Oct.	Jan.	Apl.	July	Oct.
Bacteria per ml. at 37 deg. C.	2	4	3	5	...	Nil	Nil	Nil
B. Coli. per 100 ml.	3	Nil	11	11	...	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total Coliform Organisms per 100 ml.	3	Nil	20	17	...	Nil	Nil	Nil
Class	3	1	4	4	...	1	1	1

Class 1 : Highly Satisfactory. *Class 2* : Satisfactory. *Class 3* : Suspicious.
Class 4 : Unsatisfactory.

CHEMICAL ANALYSES (Results — Parts/Million) FULLY TREATED WATER.

	Jan.	Apl.	July	Oct.
Total Solid Matter in solution	90.8	65.6	75.2	73.0
Oxygen required to oxidise in 15 minutes	0.87	0.12	0.24	0.52
Oxygen required to oxidise in 4 hours ...	1.44	0.24	0.57	1.02
Ammoniacal nitrogen as N	0.01	0.04	0.01	None
Albuminoid nitrogen as N	0.02	0.02	None	0.03
Nitrous Nitrogen as N	None	None	None	None
Nitric Nitrogen as N	None	Traces	None	None
Combined Chlorine	15.0	13.0	14.5	15.0
Total hardness	46	33	42	37
pH value	7.2	6.8	7.2	7.2

The water supply is consistently reported upon as a good soft upland surface water free from organic pollution and in every way quite fit for drinking and domestic purposes.

REPORT OF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Mr. B. L. Parker, Public Health Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent, has kindly contributed the following report:—

DETAILS OF INSPECTIONS AND VISITS

Butchers' Shops	12	Watercourses	2
Slaughterhouses	195	Dustbin Provision	276
Bakehouses	19	Keeping of Animals	5
Fish and Chip Shops	4	Housing Act Inspections	177
lice-Cream Vendors	14	Overcrowding	6
Cafes and Canteens	6	Housing Applications	6
Public Houses	17	Moveable Dwellings	9
Other Food Premises	107	I.D. Inquiries	8
Dairies	3	Filthy or Verminous Premises...	2
Milk Distributors	52	Disinfection of Premises	1
Hawkers	16	Disinfestation of Premises	6
Factories (Mech.)	24	Interviews with Owners, etc. ...	81
Factories (Non-Mech.)	10	Re-Inspection of Notices	88
P.H.A. Workplaces	3	Rodent Control	624
Shops under Shops Acts	271	Atmospheric Pollution	2
Investigation of Complaints	57	Water Supplies	9
Inspection and Tests Drainage...	252	Scrap Metal and Marine Store Dealers	4
School Sanitary Accommodation	4	Hairdressing Establishments ...	4
Septic Tanks and Cesspools ...	21	Welfare—Problem Families and Aged Persons	20
Privy and Pail Closets (Conservancy Closets)	3	Rag and Bone Gatherers	2
Supervision over Refuse— Collection and Disposal	267	Various Causes	118

Total Number of Inspections: 2,807

SUMMARY OF DEFECTS OR NUISANCES

Description	No. discovered and abated
Defective refuse receptacles	268
Defective or obstructed drainage systems	88
Defective eaves gutters or rainwater pipes	19
Defective windows	17
Defective roofs	14
Defective brickwork (external walls)	11
Defective firegrates	9
Defective or obstructed private sewage disposal plant	8
Defective or flooded approach paths and yards	8
Defective doors and frames	8
Defective watercloset appliances	7
Damp—defective and perished wall plaster	7
Offensive odours and accumulations	7
Flooded cellars and sub-floor spaces	5
Defective chimney stacks and flues	4
Defective pail closet receptacles	4
Defective cold water service pipes	4
Defective or insanitary sinks	3
Defective or insanitary sink waste pipes	3
Defective water closet structures	3

<i>Description</i>	<i>No. discovered and abated</i>
Inadequate drainage systems	2
Polluted or obstructed watercourses	2
Defective pail closet structures	2
Defective floors	2
Defective washing boilers	2
External decoration	2
Obstructed eaves gutters or rainwater pipes	1
Dangerous boundary walls	1
Defective wash-house structures	1
Defective ceilings	1
Defective hot water systems	1
Defective hand-rail to stairs	1
Filthy or verminous premises	1
Keeping of animals	1

Defects or Nuisances : Number discovered and abated : 517

Number of Notices Served : Informal : 48 Statutory : Nil.

Legal Proceedings : Nil

It will be observed from the foregoing statistics that a continuous inspection of the district is maintained in an endeavour to improve the sanitary circumstances and safeguard the public health.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION.

Except for the following all premises in the district have water closets :—

Privy Middens	8 (mostly on farms)
Pail Closets (including chemical closets)	53
(including 21 houses at Gidlow)	
Waste Water Closets	2

During the year two privy closets were converted—one to a water closet and one a pail closet—two pail closets were also converted to water closets.

A scheme for seweraging the 21 houses at Gidlow into Wigan Corporation's sewerage system is under consideration with a view to the conversion of the 21 pail closets to water closets.

Not many of the remaining conservancy closets can be converted to the water carriage system owing to the absence of a sewerage system and the prohibitive cost of installing small individual sewage disposal plant.

HOUSING.

STATISTICS.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

	<i>Houses</i>	<i>Flats</i>
(i) By the local authority	8	...
(ii) By other local authorities	Nil	...
(iii) By other bodies or persons	76	...

1.—INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR :—

(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	177
(b)	Number of inspections, formal or informal, made for the purpose	265
(2)	Dwelling-houses unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit :—	
	(a) No. found during year	4
	(b) Total number (or estimated No.) existing at end of year	33
(3)	No. of dwelling houses found during the year to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation but capable of being rendered fit ...	131

2.—HOUSES DEMOLISHED :—

In Clearance Areas (Housing Act, 1936, and Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954—	Houses Demolished	Displaced during year	
		Persons	Families
(1) Houses unfit for human habitation	Nil	Nil	Nil
(2) Houses included by reason of bad arrangement, etc.	Nil	Nil	Nil
(3) Houses on land acquired under Section 27, Housing Act, 1936	Nil	Nil	Nil
Not in Clearance Areas—			
(4) As a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 11, Housing Act 1936	Nil	Nil	Nil

3.—UNFIT HOUSES CLOSED :—

	Houses Demolished	Persons	Families	Displaced during year
(1) Under Section 11, Housing Act, 1936, and Sections 10(1) and 11(2), Local Government (Misc. Prov.) Act, 1953	Number 2	3	1	
(2) Under Sections 3(1) and 3(2), Housing Act, 1949	Nil	Nil	Nil	
(3) Parts of buildings closed under Section 12 Housing Act, 1936	Nil	Nil	Nil	

4.—UNFIT HOUSES MADE FIT AND HOUSES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE REMEDIED :—

	By Owner	By Local Authority
(1) After informal action by local authority	131	—
(2) After formal notice under— (a) Public Health Acts	Nil	Nil
(b) Housing Act, 1936	Nil	Nil
(3) Under Section 5, Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954	Nil	—

5.—UNFIT HOUSES IN TEMPORARY USE :—
(Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954)

	Number of houses (1)	Number of separate dwellings contained in column (1) (2)
Position at end of year—		
(1) Retained for temporary accommodation : (a) Under Section 2	Nil	Nil
(b) Under Section 3	Nil	Nil
(c) Under Section 4	Nil	Nil
(2) Licensed for temporary occupation under Section 6	Nil	Nil

6.—PURCHASE OF HOUSES BY AGREEMENT :—

	Number of houses (1)	No. of occupants of houses in column (1) (2)
Houses in Clearance Areas other than those included in confirmed Clearance Orders or Compulsory Purchase Orders, purchased during the year	Nil	Nil

7.—*HOUSING ACT, 1949—IMPROVEMENT GRANTS, Etc.:*—

Action during year—

<i>Improvement Grants, etc.:</i> —	Private Bodies or ... Individuals		Local Authority	
	No. of Schemes	No. of dwelling houses or other buildings affected	No. of schemes	No. of dwelling houses or other buildings affected
Action during year :—				
(a) Submitted by private individuals to local authority	11	11	—	—
(b) Approved by local authority	11	11	—	—
(c) Submitted by local authority to Ministry	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(d) Finally approved by Ministry	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(e) Work completed	11	11	Nil	Nil
(f) Additional separate dwellings included in (e) above		Nil		Nil
(g) Any other action taken under the Act (give brief particulars)	Nil			

(g) Any other action taken under the Act (give brief particulars) Nil

8.—*HOUSING ACT, 1957—PART IV—OVERCROWDING:*—

(a)	(i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year ...	8
	(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	11
	(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	50
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	3
(c)	(i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ...	5
	(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	30

HOUSING : The duty of maintaining an inspection of the housing conditions in the district was continued during the year. Much time was devoted to this important sphere of environmental health work which resulted in the improvement of the housing conditions of many families.

Slum Clearance proposals involve 40 unfit houses to be dealt with as Individual Unfit Properties or in Clearance Areas. At the end of the year 34 houses remained to be dealt with.

These proposals—designed to clear the worst of the unfit houses in the district—have received the approval of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

Housing conditions in the district are generally fairly good and no serious slum problem exists.

The Rent Act, which came into force on the 6th July, 1957, added very considerably to the work of the public health department.

At the end of the year, 37 applications for Certificates of Disrepair had been made, and, as a result, 27 Certificates of Disrepair were issued and 10 undertakings given by landlords to remedy defects were accepted by the Council. No applications for the cancellation of Certificates of Disrepair were received.

In this district there are houses which are sub-standard but are not in such a state of disrepair and not so badly arranged as to be included in slum clearance schemes. Many of these houses are a product of the late 19th Century—they are structurally sound but lack what are rightly considered to-day to be essential amenities—and still have a life probably in the region of twenty to thirty years. The residents of these dwellings are normally content to remain where they have lived for most of their lives, but would welcome the improvement of their dwellings to give them the minimum amenities which are expected to-day. Forty-six dwelling-houses in Standish have so far been satisfactorily improved with monetary assistance through the Council under Part II of the Housing Act, 1949. It is in the National and local interest that the maximum number of houses capable of being brought to this higher standard should be preserved.

At the end of the year there were 210 applicants for Council housing accommodation—approximately 161 requiring 2-bedroom and 25 requiring 3-bedroom type houses—4 requiring larger houses and 20 requiring old peoples bungalows. Whilst a degree of over-crowding exists it does not constitute a serious problem as the foregoing statistics will shew. Investigation into the circumstances of a number of applicants was made and reports prepared for the guidance of the Committee in its endeavours to ensure that applicants with the greatest housing need are re-housed. The number of applicants having an acute housing need is now not so great as it was a year or two ago.

Good progress was made during the year with the erection of new houses for general needs and to re-house a number of families from unfit properties. Consideration is also being given to the provision of Old People's dwellings.

The district is seriously affected by active mining subsidence and evidence of damage resulting therefrom can be seen in surface property throughout the area.

All kinds of problems in connection with surface property arise as a result of mining subsidence which render normal day-to-day work more difficult.

DISINFESTATION

The following premises were disinfested during the year for the reasons stated :—

Cockroach infestation	5 whole houses
Bed bugs	1 whole house

Where the furniture and effects of prospective tenants of Council houses are known to be verminous, disinfection is carried out in order to prevent infestation of the new premises.

Spraying and dusting with various insecticidal liquids and powders proved to be highly effective.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND DISINFECTION

All notified cases of certain infectious diseases are visited and enquiries made relative to the source of infection and general home conditions. Recommendations are made and advice given concerning isolation of the case and the care to be exercised by contacts.

Public library books from infected premises are disinfected by the health department before being returned to the library for re-issue. Books in an unserviceable condition are sometimes destroyed by arrangement with the Librarian.

The following premises were disinfected during the year for the reasons stated :—

After suspected Acute Poliomyelitis (not confirmed)—1 whole house. Bedding was steam disinfected

Formaldehyde was used for the purpose.

A standing arrangement with Hindley Urban District Council exists for the transportation and treatment of infected articles requiring steam disinfection.

RODENT CONTROL

One trained part-time operator is employed on rodent control work.

The following abstract from the Annual Report submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food indicates the nature and extent of work carried out during the 12 months ended 31/3/1958.

	TYPE OF PROPERTY				
	Local Authority	NON-AGRICULTURAL			AGRICULTURAL
		Dwelling Houses	All Other (including business premises)	Total	
Number of properties in District	10	2859	150	309	40
Number of properties inspected as a result of :—					
(a) Notification	Nil	30	13	43	Nil
(b) Survey or otherwise ...	10	501	101	612	40
Total inspections carried out including re-inspections	62	531	114	707	71
Number of properties inspected which were found to be infested by :—					
(a) Rats					
Major	Nil	Nil	1	1	Nil
Minor	5	22	4	31	Nil
(b) Mice					
Major	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Minor	1	8	8	17	Nil
Number of infested properties treated by the L.A.	6	30	13	49	Nil
Total treatments carried out— including re-treatments ...	6	30	13	49	Nil
Number of "Block" control schemes carried out	—	—	—	16	Nil

All infestations discovered on Agricultural properties are reported to the Divisional Pests Officer with a view to treatment under a service Contract being arranged.

The sewers and sewage disposal works were systematically treated also the refuse disposal sites. Rodent control work is carried out under the supervision of the Public Health Inspector in strict conformity with the methods advised by the Ministry. No charge is made for the disinfection of private dwelling-houses but business premises are charged for treatments on a time and material basis. No legal proceedings were taken under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act during the year. Regular attendances were made at the South West Lancashire Representative Committee and the fullest co-operative working with Contiguous Local Authorities and other bodies exists.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

The need for new and adequate public conveniences planned on modern lines for both sexes still exists. The holiday season with its almost continuous stream of traffic through the district more than emphasises the urgency of this need. The Council have considered the provision of new public conveniences to meet the needs of the district.

RIVERS AND STREAMS

Continuous pollution takes place from both public and private sewage disposal plant. Efforts have been made to reduce the pollution from private premises, and, where necessary, the cleansing of cesspools and septic tanks was carried out by the Council at the owner's expense. The pollution from the public sewage disposal works can only be mitigated by the provision of a new sewerage and sewage disposal scheme to which the Council is giving very serious consideration.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Standish has a water carriage system serving the majority of premises in the district. Areas at Boars Head—Gidlow—part of Wigan Lower Road and the northern portion of Preston Road are unsewered.

The Local Authority maintains two sewage disposal works—at Arbour Lane and Chorley Road—and two sewage farms—at Fairhurst House and Langtree. The Chorley Road works and the sewage farms are grossly overloaded and cannot deal efficiently with the increased influx of recent years. The Arbour Lane works has been so badly disrupted by mining subsidence as to render the effective treatment of sewage thereat impracticable. The sewerage system for Standish Lower Ground discharges into the trunk sewer of Wigan Corporation.

A scheme for the improvement of the sewerage and sewage disposal systems is in preparation by the Council's Consultant Engineers. Negotiations with Wigan Corporation are proceeding with a view to that authority accepting and treating the domestic sewage and trade waste from the Urban District.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS AND CAMPING SITES

A Licence to erect or station and use a Moveable Dwelling on land within the Urban District has been granted in two instances. No site licences have been issued. The use of caravans and similar structures for permanent residence should be discouraged as such so called moveable dwellings do not constitute a suitable substitute for a dwelling of traditional construction.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

General observations of works chimneys were made during the year. Pollution of the atmosphere from manufactory and domestic chimneys takes place.

Co-operation with plant managers with a view to reducing pollution of the atmosphere has continued and warnings have been given following excessive emissions of black smoke from Colliery and Locomotive Chimneys. There is considerable room for improvement in the nature of emissions from certain local manufactory chimneys and particularly is this so where boilers are hand-fired. Greater care on the part of stokers of hand fired boilers would do much to assist in maintaining a cleaner atmosphere.

One inefficient hand-fired Lancashire Boiler was replaced during the year by an Automatic Oil Burning Cochran Vertical Boiler which is capable of being operated virtually smokelessly.

With a view to reducing pollution of the atmosphere by smoke from domestic sources, householders are advised to install grates of approved type when replacing existing old and obsolete grates with new.

The Council have made the installation of approved heating and cooking appliances in new buildings obligatory by making bye-laws under Section 24 of the Clean Air Act, 1956, which became operative on the 1st October, 1957.

There are 10 factory and works chimneys within the Urban District, but no Byelaw is in force concerning emissions therefrom.

SWIMMING BATHS AND BATHING POOLS

There are no Swimming Baths or Pools open to the public in the district.

SHOPS ADMINISTRATION

There are 137 shops of various kinds within the Urban District. Assistants are employed in 31 shops and young persons in 5 of this number.

During the year 271 shop inspections were made and any offences were dealt with satisfactorily by informal action.

The Public Health Inspector is delegated Inspector of Shops by the Lancashire County Council as regards certain provisions enforceable by that Authority.

HAIRDRESSING ESTABLISHMENTS

There are seven hairdressing establishments—3 for males and 7 for females—within the Urban District. Communications concerning the hygiene of premises and hairdressing equipment have been sent to all hairdressers.

FACTORIES AND WORKPLACES

Number and particulars of Factories on Register at 31st December, 1957, as per Ministry of Labour and National Service Form 572 (revised):

Factories (Mech.)	20
Factories (Non-Mech.)	4
Building Operations and Works of Engineering Construction	17
Number of Inspections made	55
Number of cases in which defects were found	1
Number of cases in which defects were remedied	Nil
Number of written notices served	Nil

There are no out-workers within the Urban District. A number of workplaces coming within the provisions of Section 46 of the P.H.A. 1936 are regularly inspected.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

There are no premises registered or licensed under the above Act within the Urban District.

LICENSED PREMISES

There are 13 public houses within the Urban District.

Systematic inspections are made of the sanitary accommodation at these premises and reports are prepared and submitted to the General Annual Licensing Meeting of the Justices when considering the granting or renewal of licences under the Licensing Act, 1953, and it is pleasing to record that in this matter full co-operation exists between the Licensing Justices and the Council. By this means considerable structural improvements to sanitary accommodation have been effected at several of the licensed premises.

A Hygiene Code of Practice for public houses which, inter alia, directs particular attention to the cleansing and sterilising of glasses, abolition of lead and other unsuitable beer piping and pumps, cleansing of beer piping and pumps, disposal of drippings

and overspill beer and the abolition of spittoons has been formulated and addressed to owners and licensees of all public houses and secretaries and stewards of all clubs within the Urban District by whom it has been well received.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

A total of 390 inspections of food premises and distributors' vehicles of all kinds was made during the year and the importance of attaining and maintaining a high standard of hygiene in relation to food premises and food handling was stressed as in previous years. A persuasive approach to food traders and the practical solution of problems on their own premises has produced considerable improvements in standards previously accepted.

The attention to details of personal hygiene by food traders is of extreme importance in the campaign to raise the standard of food hygiene and safeguard the consuming public from the dangers and discomforts of food poisoning.

The constant repetition of this basic essential during day to day contact with food traders can only result in improved standards of personal hygiene.

The intention and purpose of food hygiene work is to ensure that clean food is manufactured in and sold from clean premises by clean people.

As requested by the Ministry of Health, copies of the new posters with the common slogan "For Health's Sake" were distributed during July to all food handlers engaged in food businesses within the Urban District by whom they were well received.

The Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955 to 1957, are intended to strengthen the powers of local authorities in securing higher standards of food hygiene throughout the food and catering industries and thereby help in reducing the incidence of food borne disease. It is true to say that these Regulations in themselves will never achieve maximum effect unless the public also play their part.

Practically all food premises and the vehicles of food hawkers and itinerant vendors of ice-cream in the district had been inspected and assessed in comparison with the various requirements of The Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, and, at the end of the year, progress in implementing the requirements of the Regulations was well advanced.

The unco-operative or neglectful trader was reminded of his obligations under the various food laws and warned of the consequences of not complying. Contraventions were remedied informally.

Regular ante-mortem and one hundred per cent post-mortem inspection of all animals slaughtered at the one licensed private slaughterhouse within the district was carried out as detailed in the following table. All inspections were carried out in accordance with the provisions of Memo. 3/meat.

DETAIL	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	313	... 19	... 14	... 1128	... 1093	... Nil
Number inspected	313	... 19	... 14	... 1128	... 1093	... Nil
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci :—</i>						
Whole carcases condemned	Nil	... Nil	... Nil	... 3	... Nil	... Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	108	... 13	... 1	... 140	... 101	... Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	34.5	... 68.4	... 7.1	... 12.6	... 9.2	... Nil
<i>Tuberculosis only :—</i>						
Whole carcases condemned	1	... Nil	... Nil	... Nil	... 2	... Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	22	... 2	... Nil	... Nil	... 7	... Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	7.3	... 10.5	... Nil	... Nil	... 0.8	... Nil
<i>Cysticercosis :—</i>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	7	... Nil	... Nil	... Nil	... Nil	... Nil
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	1	... Nil	... Nil	... Nil	... Nil	... Nil
Generalised and totally condemned	Nil	... Nil	... Nil	... Nil	... Nil	... Nil

The following foods were inspected and voluntarily surrendered as unfit for human consumption :—

Description of Food	Disease or other cause of condemnation	Weight condemned tons cwts.qrs.lbs.oz.
Canned tomato pulp (various brands)...	Decomposition	... 27 11 0 8 0
Canned apricot pulp	Decomposition	... 2 2 0 16 0
Canned boiled ham (various brands)...	Decomposition	... 1 1 1 15
Canned meat (various).....	Decomposition	... 3 7 7
Canned fruit (various).....	Decomposition	... 2 27 3
Canned vegetables (various).....	Decomposition	... 20 5
Canned condensed milk	Decomposition	... 4 8
Canned fish	Decomposition	... 1 0
		29 16 1 2 6

<i>Carcases/Organs or parts condemned</i>	<i>No. condemned</i>	<i>Disease or other cause of condemnation</i>	<i>Weight condemned tons.cwts.qrs.lbs.</i>
CATTLE EXCLUDING COWS :—			
Whole carcases and organs	1	... Generalised Tuberculosis	5 1 16
Short fore quarters	1	... Tuberculosis	1 12
Whole organs (sets)	1	... Tuberculosis	2 4
Heads with tongue	2	... Tuberculosis	2 0
Heads less tongue	1	... Tuberculosis	20
Lungs	17	... Tuberculosis	1 2 2
Livers (whole)	1	... Tuberculosis	14
Kidney and suet	1	... Tuberculosis	8
Mesenteries/intestines and stomach	2 (23)	... Tuberculosis	2 4
Brisket pieces (part)	2	... Presternal Calcification	20
Heads with tongue	3	... Cysticercus bovis ...	3 2
Whole organs (sets)	1 *	... Cysticercus bovis ...	3 16
Hearts	3 (7)	... Cysticercus bovis ...	9
Hearts	1	... Pericarditis	2
Lungs	5	... Congestion	1 22
Lungs	1 (108)	... Abscesses	10
		... Distomatosis and cirrhosis	
Livers—whole	31	3 3 12	
Livers—whole	12	... Abscesses	1 1 26
Livers—part	70	... Cirrhosis	3 2 20
COWS :—			
Lungs	2 (2)	... Tuberculosis	20
Livers—whole	4	... Angiomatosis	2 0
		... Distomatosis and cirrhosis	
Livers—whole	3	1 14	
Livers—whole	1	... Abscesses	14
Livers—whole	1	... Cloudy swelling ...	14
Livers—part	5	... Cirrhosis	1 4
Spleens	1	... Cloudy swelling ...	3
Udders	1	... Mammitis	20
Udders	1 (13)	... Septic contusion ...	20
CALVES :—			
Livers	1 (1)	... Parasitic	3
SHEEP AND LAMBS :—			
Carcases and organs	3	... Parturient fever ...	1 1 16
Livers—whole	140 (143)	... Parasitic	2 2 22
PIGS :—			
Carcases and organs	2	... Generalised Tuberculosis ...	2 2 23
Heads with tongue	5	... Tuberculosis	1 20
Plucks	2 (9)	... Tuberculosis	16
Carcases and organs	1	... Acute fever	2 0
Legs—part	2	... Fractured and contused	20
Whole organs (sets)	1	... Congestion	1 2
Plucks	12	... Congestion	3 12
Lungs with heart	7	... Congestion and pericarditis	1 6
Hearts	17	... Pericarditis	16
Livers—whole	48	... Parasitic	1 2 20
Livers—whole	16 (101)	... Cirrhosis	2 8
			1 14 2 14

Grand total weight: 31 tons 10cwts. 3qtrs. 16lbs. 6ozs.

*Denotes that carcase was subjected to cold storage at a temperature not exceeding 20 degrees Fahrenheit for a period of not less than three weeks.

The canned tomato pulp is imported by a food canning firm operating in the district and damage during transit or deterioration during storage are the reasons for condemnation.

All condemned meat and other food is disposed of either to non-edible by-product manufacturers or by burying at the Local Authority's refuse disposal sites under the direction and supervision of the Public Health Inspector. All condemned meat is stained green before release to by-product manufacturers.

The following information is given in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health Circular.

Number of Food Premises (by type of business) in District at end of year:-

Type of Business	No.
General grocers and provision dealers	44
Greengrocers & fruiterers (incl. those selling wet fish/game/etc.)	10
Fishmongers (incl. those selling poultry/game/etc.)	Nil
Meat shops (butchers/purveyors of cooked and preserved meat/tripe/etc.)	12
Bakers and/or confectioners	5
Fried fish shops	4
Shops selling mainly sugar confectionery / minerals / ice-cream/etc.	8
Licensed Premises/clubs/canteens/restaurants/cafes/snack bars and similar catering establishments	29
Others	11
<hr/>	
TOTAL ...	123

Number of above premises where more than one type of classified business is carried on	12
Actual number of food premises ...	111

Number of Food Premises (by type) registered under the Lancashire County Council (River Board and General Powers) Act, 1938

Type of Business	No. registered	Number of inspections of registered premises	
		at 31-12-57	during year
(a) Hawkers food storage premises ...	1		
(b) Sale of ice-cream	30		40
(c) Preparation or manufacture of sausages or potted or pressed or pickled or preserved meat	4		

Food Hawkers registered under the Lancashire County Council (River Board and General Powers) Act, 1938 :—

A variable number of hawkers of meat or meat food product or fish or fruit or vegetables is registered with the Council under the provisions of the above Act.

Regular inspections of the vehicles and food offered or exposed for sale are made and the hawkers' attention drawn to any irregularities found.

Ice-Cream :—

There are no manufacturers of ice-cream within the Urban District. All shop retailers of ice-cream and water-ice are equipped with a modern refrigerator and sell pre-packed products of reputable quality. The only loose ice-cream sold within the area is by itinerant vendors.

FOOD AND DRUGS SAMPLING

The County Medical Officer of Health has kindly supplied the following details:—

A total of 35 samples was obtained made up of 27 samples of milk and 8 samples of other commodities.

With the exception of one sample of milk all proved genuine. Appropriate action was taken in respect of the deficient sample.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

There is one licensed slaughterhouse within the Urban District where much of the meat consumed by Standish residents is produced. It is pleasing to record that the important work of meat production thereat has operated quite satisfactorily. Further structural alterations to the slaughterhouse premises and the replacement of existing and provision of new slaughterhouse equipment were carried out during the year.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACTS, 1933 to 1954

The Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations, 1954 and 1955.

The above Acts prohibit the slaughtering and stunning of animals except by licensed slaughtermen and require all animals to be stunned by a mechanically operated instrument prior to slaughter. The above Regulations are designed to secure humane conditions and practices in connection with the slaughter of animals at slaughterhouses and knackers' yards.

Seven slaughtermen are licensed by the Council to slaughter animals.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

This Act provides for a system of licensing and inspection of Pet Shops by Local Authorities. The principal purpose is to enforce reasonable treatment and accommodation of pet animals during their sale or keeping for sale.

There are no Pet Shops within the Urban District.

MILK AND DAIRIES ADMINISTRATION

The following statistics give some idea of the milk supply of the district at 31st December.

Milk Producers in the district	19
including Tuberculin Tested Producers	12
including Producer-Retailers	8
including Producer-Wholesalers	19
Milk producers outside the district retailing in the district	3

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949 to 1954 :—

Number of milk distributors registered by the local authority and operating from :—

(a) Dairies in the district	1
(b) Shops in the district other than dairies	29
(c) Premises outside the district	3

Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949 to 1954 :

Dealers' Licences issued—Tuberculin Tested Milk	3
Supplementary Licences issued—Tuberculin Tested Milk	2

Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949 to 1953 :—

Dealers' Licences issued—Pasteurised Milk	9
Dealers' Licences issued—Sterilised Milk	34
Supplementary Licences issued — Pasteurised Milk	2
Supplementary Licences issued — Sterilised Milk	2

Fifty-five inspections of milk distributors' premises and vehicles were carried out during the year and time spent on advisory work in connection with clean and safe milk distribution.

The majority of the population of Standish now consume milk in designated form (Tuberculin Tested or Pasteurised or Sterilised) brought to them in sealed bottles in a hygienic manner. Such milk is clean and safe to consume by people of all ages.

Following the necessity of having to prohibit the sale of an infected supply of milk, the Council urged the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food in conjunction with the Ministry of Health, to declare a Specified Area which would include the Urban District of Standish-with-Langtree wherein the use of special designations in relation to milk sold by retail for human consumption would be obligatory in accordance with the provisions of Sections 37 and 41 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

Milk Sampling :—

During the year 42 samples of milk were taken for the biological test. One sample was found to be infected with Mycobacterium Tuberculosis, and, as a result, one cow was removed and slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order, 1938.

A notice under Regulation 20 of the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, was served prohibiting the retail sale of an ungraded milk supply which sampling had shewn to be infected with Mycobacterium Tuberculosis. The operation of the Regulation was accomplished satisfactorily.

Twenty-one samples of milk were submitted to the Methylene Blue test and 16 were graded as satisfactory and 5 as unsatisfactory.

Four samples of pasteurised milk were submitted to the Methylene Blue and Phosphatase tests with satisfactory results.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

The Refuse Collection Service provides employment for eleven full-time men—this includes the foreman.

The vehicle establishment consists of two "Dennis" 10 cubic yard and one "Scammel" 6 cubic yard side-loading refuse collection vehicles. One "Dennis" vehicle is powered by a diesel engine which has shewn a 50 per cent. increase in fuel efficiency compared with the petrol-engined vehicle of the same body capacity. The "Scammel" vehicle has been in service for 15 years and is now nearing the end of its useful life.

In order to cope more efficiently with the increasing number of properties and other contingencies with which the department periodically has to contend, it is hoped that the Council will in due course replace this vehicle by a larger and more suitable one.

Except for the interruptions caused by public and general holidays, a weekly collection of refuse was maintained throughout the district.

The maintenance of a regular weekly collection is no light task, bearing in mind the incidence of sickness and absenteeism, holidays, salvage collection and disposal, and the greater carrying distances which the modern layout of the new housing estates entail.

Public cleansing is a subject which arouses little interest among the public—until the machinery breaks down. It is gratifying to record that the service operates efficiently and generally without complaint.

Considerable importance is attached to adequate and regular vehicle maintenance and the working of overtime is discouraged.

With few exceptions no charge was made for the removal of trade refuse although shops and business premises had a collection twice a week. It is correct to point out that much of the trade refuse removed is salvaged and sold and the revenue so produced is greater than that which would accrue from trade refuse charges.

The disused sand pits at Langtree Hall Farm used for the purpose of refuse disposal by means of controlled tipping have proved very satisfactory and no complaints have been received. It is anticipated that this site will provide disposal capacity for several years.

The refuse tips are regularly treated with bait and insecticide as a precaution against rodent and insect infestations.

The emptying of pail closets was carried out weekly.

The rebuilding of the garage at the Public Cleansing Depot in Grove Lane was satisfactorily completed during the year. These premises can be developed into an admirable and useful Public Cleansing and Salvage Depot and it is hoped that this can be achieved as soon as possible in order to abolish the remaining dilapidated and unsatisfactory wooden structure and facilitate the work of the department. The probable cost of completing such a project would be £1,700.

The dustbin provision and ownership scheme has been in existence since 1951 and is operating satisfactorily. During the year 232 dustbins were provided out of the General Rate Fund.

Salvage was collected at the same time as the refuse and kept separately for baling and subsequent disposal to Thames Board Mills Limited under Contract.

The salvage of waste paper is still of prime importance and the demand for it is continuous. The salvage of waste paper has come to be regarded as a permanent and important part of the Public Cleansing Service.

The workmen are rewarded 20 per cent. of all income from the sale of salvaged materials as an incentive to increase collections.

Too much salvage publicity cannot be broadcast with a view to increasing output. There is little doubt that the income could be considerably increased if **every** householder and shopkeeper would save all their salvage for the Council collectors.

The income from the sale of salvaged materials during the calendar year was :—

Waste paper	90 tons	6 cwts.	0 qtrs.	£718 3 10
Rags and Scrap	4 tons	11 cwts.	2 qtrs.	£ 14 16 6
Totals	94 tons	17 cwts.	2 qtrs.	£733 0 4

The cleansing of non-County roads is carried out under the direction and supervision of the Surveyor.

Anti-Litter Campaign.—The Council has provided a number of litter bins which have been fixed at suitable points in the district. These are emptied at weekly intervals by the Public Cleansing Department.

